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REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment. The amendment is fully supported by the application as originally filed (see, e.g., specification at page 33, line 3 to page 34, line 21).

As amended, claim 1 recites "the information processing section detects and tracks the one or more moving objects, based on the image information, and is operable to process the image information in an appropriate manner to allow a selected portion of the image information for viewing to be panned or tilted."

In other words, as recited in claim 1, the functions of panning and tilting of a selected area are provided through image processing of the image information. Advantages of this feature are stated on page 34, lines 12-14 of the specification: "maintenance is substantially not required during long-time operation, and highly reliable and stable operation can be realized."

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,226,035 to Korein et al. (hereinafter "Korein") in view of U.S. Patent 6,304,285 to Geng. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korein in view of Geng, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,953,449 to Matsuda et al. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korein in view of Geng, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,787,199 to Lee. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Korein reference does not teach or suggest a moving object tracking apparatus including an information processing section that detects and tracks one or more moving objects, and is operable to process image information so as to allow a selected portion of the image information for viewing to be panned or tilted.

Referring to column 8, lines 41-49 of Korein, although a computer can be used to enable a user to pan or tilt a scene in a desired manner, Korein further states: "[s]econd and third motors control movable surfaces that pan and tilt the camera" (column 8, lines 59-60 of Korein).

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In other words, according to Korein, the image sensor 20 is moved by mechanical means.

In contrast, the Applicants' claimed invention uses **image processing** to provide the functions of panning and tilting (see amended claim 1). There is no teaching or suggestion in Korcin that panning or tilting is performed as a result of **image processing** by the computer.

The Geng reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Korcin. Geng discloses an omnidirectional mirror for viewing an object within a hemispherical field of view from a single virtual point. Geng is not capable of detecting and tracking one or more moving objects, or performing pan and tilt operations. Even if Geng was somehow combined with Korein, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be provided with sufficient teaching to perform pan and tilt operations by processing image information. Moreover, the Korein and Geng references do not discuss the problem of how to reduce maintenance on system components, as provided in the Applicants' invention.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the combination of Korein in view of Geng does not teach or suggest the Applicants' claimed invention as recited in claim 1.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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